AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A process for producing a hydroxylamine by reacting a salt of hydroxylamine with an alkali compound, comprising

a reaction step of reacting a salt of hydroxylamine with an alkali compound while keeping the reaction solution at a pH of 7 or more,

a concentration step of concentrating the hydroxylamine, and

a purification step of purifying the hydroxylamine by ion exchange after said concentration step.

2. (currently amended): A process for producing a hydroxylamine by reacting a salt of hydroxylamine with an alkali compound, comprising a reaction step of performing the reaction by adding a salt of hydroxylamine to a reaction solution containing an alkali compound, wherein said reaction step is performed while keeping the reaction solution at a pH of 7 or more.

3. (canceled).

4. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claims 1 or 2, wherein said alkali compound is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal compound, an alkaline earth metal compound, an ammonia and an amine.

5. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claims 1 or 2, wherein said salt of hydroxylamine is at least one salt selected from the group

consisting of hydroxylamine sulfate, hydroxylamine hydrochloride, hydroxylamine nitrate and hydroxylamine phosphate.

6. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claims 1 or 2, wherein the reaction temperature at said reaction step is from 0 to 80°C.

7. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claims 1 or 2, wherein said reaction step is performed in the presence of a solvent containing water and/or an alcohol.

8. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claims 1 or 2, wherein said reaction step is performed in the presence of a stabilizer.

9. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claims 1 or 2, which comprises a separation step of separating insoluble substances from the hydroxylamine.

10. (original): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 9, wherein the temperature at said separation step is from 0 to 80°C.

11. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 9, wherein at least a part of the reaction solution after separating insoluble substances in said separation step is used as a solvent for dissolving or suspending a salt of hydroxylamine and/or an alkali compound which are reaction raw materials.

12. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claims 1 or 2, which comprises a purification step of purifying the hydroxylamine.

13. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 12, wherein said purification step is a step of purifying the hydroxylamine by at least one

method selected from the group consisting of distillation, ion exchange, electrodialysis, membrane separation, adsorption and crystallization.

14. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 12, wherein at least a part of the hydroxylamine solution obtained in said purification step is used as a solvent for dissolving or suspending a salt of hydroxylamine and/or an alkali compound which are reaction raw materials.

15. (canceled).

16. (currently amended): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim ~~15~~1, wherein said concentration step is a step of concentrating the hydroxylamine by distillation at the column bottom.

17. (currently amended): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim ~~15~~1, wherein the temperature at said concentration step is from 0 to 70°C.

18. (currently amended): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim ~~15~~1, wherein at least a part of the hydroxylamine solution obtained in said concentration step is used as a solvent for dissolving or suspending a salt of hydroxylamine and/or an alkali compound which are reaction raw materials.

19. (canceled).

20. (original): A process for producing a hydroxylamine, comprising a reaction step of reacting a salt of hydroxylamine with an alkali compound to obtain a hydroxylamine, a purification step of purifying the hydroxylamine by ion exchange, and a concentration step of concentrating the hydroxylamine by distillation at the column bottom.

21. (original): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 20, wherein said steps for producing a hydroxylamine are performed in the order of a reaction step, a purification step and a concentration step.

22. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 20, wherein each of said steps is performed in the presence of a stabilizer.

23. (original): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 20, which comprises a separation step of separating insoluble substances from the hydroxylamine.

24. (original): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 23, wherein the temperature at said separation step is from 0 to 80°C.

25. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 23, wherein said steps for producing a hydroxylamine are performed in the order of a reaction step, a separation step, a purification step and a concentration step.

26. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 23, wherein each of said steps is performed in the presence of a stabilizer.

27. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 23, wherein at least a part of the reaction solution after separating insoluble substances in said separation step is used as a solvent for dissolving or suspending a salt of hydroxylamine and/or an alkali compound which are reaction raw materials.

28. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 20, wherein said reaction step is performed while keeping the reaction solution at a pH of 7 or more.

29. (original): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 28, wherein said reaction step is a step of adding a salt of hydroxylamine to a reaction solution containing an alkali compound.

30. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 20, wherein the reaction temperature at said reaction step is from 0 to 80°C.

31. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 20, wherein said reaction step is performed in the presence of a solvent containing water and/or an alcohol.

32. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 20, wherein the temperature at said purification step is from 0 to 70°C.

33. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 20, wherein at least a part of the hydroxylamine solution obtained in said purification step is used as a solvent for dissolving or suspending a salt of hydroxylamine and/or an alkali compound which are reaction raw materials.

34. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 20, wherein the temperature at said concentration step is from 0 to 70°C.

35. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 20, wherein at least a part of the hydroxylamine solution obtained in said concentration step is used as a solvent for dissolving or suspending a salt of hydroxylamine and/or an alkali compound which are reaction raw materials.

36. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 20, which further comprises a purification step of purifying the hydroxylamine by ion exchange after said concentration step.

37. (original): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 36, wherein the temperature at said purification step after the concentration step is from 0 to 70°C.

38. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 20, wherein said salt of hydroxylamine is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of hydroxylamine sulfate, hydroxylamine hydrochloride, hydroxylamine nitrate and hydroxylamine phosphate.

39. (previously presented): The process for producing a hydroxylamine as claimed in claim 20, wherein said alkali compound is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal compound, an alkaline earth metal compound, an ammonia and an amine.